Condition of Tourist Places in Eastern and Northern India

†93. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the tourist places situated in eastern and northern part of India are in poor condition;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the Jain and Buddhist historical places in such areas are being neglected much more; and

(c) whether it is also a fact that the excavation work of Nalanda University is still incomplete?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN): (a) The centrally protected monuments under the control of the Archaeological Survey of India are duly maintained under the archaeological norms and practices. As regards other tourist places, it is the responsibility of the State Government under whose charge they are to maintain them. However, the Government extends central financial assistance for improving facilities in such tourist places.

(b) All the protected Jain monuments and the Buddhist historical places are duly looked after by the Archaeological Survey of India and the State Government.

(c) No archaeological site is excavated fully by the Archaeological Survey of India. Part of a site is always left for future investigation and research.

Proposal to Beautify Ayodhya

94. SHRI LALIT SURI: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal under Government's consideration to beautify the pilgrimage town of Ayodhya in U.P. (outside the disputed area) to attract domestic and international tourists; and

(b) if so, the details thereof, indicating the nature of beautification proposed, the funds allocated for the purpose and time required to complete the works?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

† Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.

(b) Based on field visit the following works have been identified:—

1. Development/Repairs of Ram Ki Paidi.
2. Development of River Front/Green Belt as far as seven kilometers.
3. Development of smaller Parikarma route.
4. Development of Kunds.
5. Development of Gardens.
6. Installation of Sound and Light Show conceived around Ramayana story.
7. Construction of a neat and attractive tourist resort.

Out of the above, for Ram Ki Paidi a sum of Rs.98.18 lakhs has been sanctioned and released to CPWD. CPWD has been asked to do its best to complete the work within six months.

Proposal for Opening Protected Monuments for Prayers

95. PROF M. SANKARALINGAM: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to open protected monuments for offering prayers;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN): (a) to (c) No, sir. However religious character of the monument and ritual practices if any, that existed at the time of protection are retained even after they are declared to be of national importance.

Tourism Potential of Karnataka Coastline

96. MISS MABEL REBELLO: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that strict provisions of Coastal Regulation Zone are hampering tapping of enormous tourism potential of the vast coastline of Karnataka;

(b) whether the State Government has approached the Central Government for a special package to relax the strict norms to help the State do develop the beaches for tourist traffic, if so, the status of the proposal; and